

OBJECTIVES OF THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REVIEWER TRAINING

While you have been selected as a reviewer due to your expertise in early childhood mental health, the philosophy and context of mental health in Head Start may be slightly different than mental health in other systems and contexts. Regardless of your expertise in mental health and/or Head Start, in order to maximize consistency in the reviews it is critical that you develop a common understanding of the philosophy of mental health in Head Start.

Head Start views mental health through a relationship-based framework. The philosophy of mental health in Head Start is based on promotion, prevention, early identification, and treatment. There are particular performance standards that relate to each area on the continuum. Specifically, all Head Start and Early Head Start programs are mandated to provide services related to each level of mental health service, including promotion, prevention, early identification, and treatment.

The following are the key objectives of the Mental Health Services Reviewer Training, which include to help you:

- Increase knowledge and familiarity with mental health in the context of Head Start
- Gain familiarity with the Head Start Performance Standards related to mental health
- Develop familiarity and understanding of the Mental Health Core Question and protocol
- Gain an understanding of the connection between the Head Start systems and services as they relate to mental health
- Gain familiarity with the process of monitoring of Head Start grantees, and the reviewer's role in it
- Gain familiarity with how to write and substantiate preliminary areas of noncompliance in a Head Start review report

It is essential that you as a reviewer become familiar with the comprehensive Head Start Performance Standards. Many of the Mental Health Standards are interwoven across domains, including, for example, education and early child development, family partnerships, community partnerships, management systems and procedures, human resource management, and disabilities services.